(b) if so, the details of steps taken by the Union Government to improve the health standards of the people of the country;

(c) the details of the medicines, appliances that are not admissible to the Government servants;

(d) the reasons thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Union Government to ensure that Government employees become entitled to hitherto inadmissible medicines and appliances?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D.K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) The general health standard of the people of the country is measured by indicators like crude birth rate, crude death rate, infant mortality and life expectancy at birth. On the basis of these indicators given in the World Bank Development Report 1991, it is seen that the general health standard of the people of Cuba is better than ours.

(b) The strategies for striving towards the goal of 'health for all by 2000 A. D' have been enunciated in the National Health Policy-1983. The health care activities, programmes and projects have been receiving due attention through the successive Five year Plans and vest network of health delivery system through sub-centres, primary health centres and district hospitals, has been established. Emphasis has been laid on prevention/control/eradication of communicable and other diseases in the country. Indian system of medicine and homeopathy have also been developed. Over the years, the crude death rate and infant mortality rate has gone down considerably and at the same time, the life expectancy has gone up significantly.

(c) to (e). Central Government employees are provided medicines under the Central Government Health Scheme. Medicines for common ailments and chronic illness are dispensed through a network of CGHS dispensaries. Hospital indoor treatment is provided at Government hospitals and private hospitals recognised under the CGHS Scheme.

Salary of Private Workers

2714. SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to increase in the cost of living, the Government servants get increase in their pay two times a year;

(b) whether such an increase in the salary or wages of the labourers, employees in the shops, factories etc. is not given by their employers;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to ensure that the same method; of increase in the salary of the Government servants is made applicable in the case of persons working in private organisations; and

(d) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). In shops, factories, etc. in the private sector, dearness allowance, normally, constitutes a part of the total wage agreements arrived at between the employers and employees in the private sector cannot be forced to adopt the same formula for payment of dearness allowance. Under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, the Central Government has made provisions in most of the scheduled employments for payment of

dearness allowance every six months based on the rise in Consumer Price Index Number for the preceding half of the calendar year. The State Governments have also been advised for making such provisions linked with Consumer Price Index alongwith the minimum rates of wages for such scheduled employments in which they are the appropriate Governments so that the unorganised labour is protected against rise in price level.

[*Translation*]

Pollution by IFFCO, Phulpur

2715. SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the pollution caused by the Indian Farmer's Fertilizers Cooperative Limited, (IFFCO) Phulpur has been checked;

(b) if so, when and the names of diseases spread/caused due to pollution by the factory in the villages around Phulpur;

(c) whether a large number of cattle had also died after consuming the polluted water a few years back; and

(d) if so, the action taken to check the recurrence of such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. In pursuance of the instructions or the U. P. Pollution Control Board, the unit has installed air and water pollution control devices in November, 1990, and is complying with the prescribed standards. There is no report with the Government regarding diseases spread or caused due to pollution by the factory in the villages around Phulpur.

(c) and (d). In April 1988, the veterinary officer of Allahabad reported the death of about twenty cattle in the villages around Phulpur. However, there is no conclusive evidence as to whether the cause of death of these cattle was pollution from IFFCO.

Ban on Use of Loud Speakers

2716. SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the noise pollution is caused by high volume loud speakers;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government propose to put a ban on the use of loud speakers; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). A code of practice for controlling noise from public address systems has been evolved by the Central Pollution Control Board. This includes:-

(1) Licences must be obtained by all parties intending to use loud-speakers or public address system for any occasion.

(2) Public address system and loud speakers should not be used at night between 9P.M. and 6A. M. except in closed premises.

(3) Speakers should be directed at the audience and not away from the audience i. e. not towards the neighbourhood.

(4) Loud-speakers should not be allowed for advertisement and commercial activities.